THE PETITION OF Both Houſes of PARLIAMENT,

Preſented to the Kings moſt Excellent MAIESTIE at *Yorke*, March 26. 1642.

With his Majeſties *Anſwer thereunto.*
Die Veneris 1° April. 1642.

Ordered by the LORDS in Parliament, that the *Meſſage* of both Houſes of Parliament, dated 23 *March* 1641. And his MAIESTIES Anſwer thereunto, ſhall be forthwith Printed and publiſhed.

Whereunto is added, the Petition of the Noblemen and Gentlemen, eſtated in *Ireland*, and now in *London*, With his *Majeſties* Anſwer unto the ſame.

London, Printed for *John Wright*. 1642

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To the KINGS most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Petition of the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament.

May it please Your Majestie,

YOur Majesties most loyall Subjects, the Lords and Commons in Parliament, cannot conceive that the Declaration which Your Majesty received from us at New-market, was such as did deserve that Censure your Majesty was pleased to lay upon us, in that Speech which your Majesty made to our Committees there, and sent in writing to both Houses; Our addresse therein being accompanied with plainnesse, humility, and faithfulnesse, we thought more proper for the removing the destraction of the Kingdome, than if we had then proceeded according to your Majesties Message of the 20 of January, by which your Majesty was pleased to desire, That we would declare what we intended to do for your Majesty, and what we expected to be done for our selves, in both which we have been very much hindred by your Majesties deniall to secure us and the whole Kingdome, by disposing the Militia, as we had divers times most humbly Petitioned, and yet we have not been altogethet negligent of either, having lately made good proceedings in preparing a book of Rates to be passed in a Bill of Tonnage and Poundage; and likewise the most materiall Heads of those humble desires which we intended to make to your Majesty for the good and contentment of your Majesty and your people, but none of these could be perfected before the Kingdome be put into safety, by setling the Militia: And untill your Majesty shall be pleased to concurre with your Parliament in these necessary things, we hold it impossible for you to give the world or your people such satisfaction concerning the feares and jealousies which we have expressed, as we hope Your Majesty hath already received touching that exception which You were pleased to take to M. Pyms Speech.

As for your Majesties fears and doubts, the ground whereof is from Seditious Pamphlets and Sermons, We shall be as carefull to endeavour the removall assoon as we shall understand what Pamphlets and Sermons are by your Majesty intended, as we have been to prevent all dangerous Tumults: And if any extraordinary concourse of people out of the City of Westminster had the face and shew of tumult and danger in your Majesties apprehension, it will appear to be caused by your Majesties deniall of such a guard to your Parliament as they might have cause to confide in; And by taking into White-hall such a guard for your selfe as gave just cause of jealousie to the Parliament, and of terror and offence to your people. We seek nothing but your Majesties honour, and the peace and prosperity of your Majesties Kingdomes; And we are heartily sorry we have such plentifull matter of an answer to that Question, Whether You have violated our Laws.

We beseech your Majesty to remember, that the government of this Kingdome, as it was in a great part mannaged by your Ministers before the beginning of this Parliament, consisted of many continued and multiplied acts of violation of Laws, the wounds whereof were scarcely healed, when the extremity of all those violations was far exceeded by the late, strange, and unheard of breach of our Laws in the accusation of the Lord Kymbolton, and the

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five Members of the Commons-House, and in the proceedings thereupon, for which we have yet received no full satisfaction.

To your Majesties next Question, Whether you had denied any Bill for the ease and security of your Subjects. We wish we could stop in the midst of our answer, That with much thankfulnesse we acknowledge that your Majesty hath past many good Bills full of contentment, and advantage to your People; But truth and necessity inforceth us to add this, That even in or about the time of passing those Bills, some designe or other hath been on foot, which if it had taken effect, would not only have deprived us of the fruit of those Bils, but have reduced us to a worse condition of confusion then that wherein the Parliament found us.

And if your Majesty had asked us the third Question intimated in that Speech, What we had done for your Selfe, Our Answer would have beene much more easie, That we have paid two Armies, wherewith the Kingdome was burthened last year; And have undergone the charge of the Warre in Ireland at this time; When through many other excessive charges and Pressures, whereby your subjects have been exhausted, and the stock of the Kingdome very much diminished: Which great mischiefs, and the charges thereupon ensuing, have been occasioned by the evill counsels so powerfull with your Majesty, which have, and will cost this Kingdome more then two Millions: All which in justice ought to have been born by your Majeste.

As for that free and generall pardon your Majesty hath been pleased to offer, it can be no security to our fears and jealousies, for which your Majesty seems to propound it, because they arise not from any guilt of our own Actions, but from the evill Designes and attempts of others.

To this our humble Answer to that Speech, we desire to adde an information which we lately received from the Deputy Governour of the Merchant Adventurers at Rotterdam in Holland, That an unknowne person appertaining to the Lord Digby, did lately solicite one Iames Henley a Mariner, to go to Elsenore, and to take charge of a Ship in the Fleet of the King of Denmarke there prepared, which he should conduct to Hull: In which Fleet likewise he said a great Army was to be transported. And although we are not apt to give credit to Informations of this nature, yet we cannot altogether thinke it fit to be neglected, but that it may justly adde somewhat to the weight of our fears and jealousies, considering with what circumstances it is accompanied, With the Lord Digbies preceding Expressions in his Letter to her Majesty, and Sir Lewis Dives, And your Majesties succeeding course of withdrawing Your Selfe Northward from your Parliament, in a manner very sutable and correspondent to that evill Counsell.

Which we doubt will make much deeper impression in the generality of Your People; And therefore we most humbly advise and beseech your Majesty for the procuring and setling the confidence of your Parliament, and all your Subiects, and for the other important reasons, concerning the recovery of Ireland and securing this Kingdome, which have been formerly presented to your Maiesty, You will be graciously pleased (with all convenient speed) to returne to these parts, and to close with the counsell and desire of your Parliament, where you shall find their dutifull affections, and endeavours ready to attend your Maiesty with such entertainment, as shall not only give your Maiesty iust cause of security in their faithfulnesse, but other manifold evidences

ces of their earnest intentions and indeavours to advance your Maiesties Ser-
viee, Honour, and contentment, and to establish it upon the sure foundation
of the peace and prosperity of all your Kingdomes:

His Majesties Answer to the Petition

Of both Houses of *Parliament*,

Presented to Him at *York* on Saturday the 26 of *March*, 1642.
by the L. *Willoughby*, L. *Dungarvan*, and Sir *Anthony Irby*.

IF you would have had the patience to have expected Our Answer to your last Declaration (which, considering the nature of it, hath not been long in coming) We believe you would have saved your selves the labour of saying much of this Message. And We could wish that Our Priviledges on all parts were so Stated, that this way of Correspondency might be preserved with that Freedom which hath been used of old: For We must tell you, that if you may aske any thing of Us by Message or Petition, and in what language (how unusuall soever) you think fit, and We must neither deny the thing you ask, nor give a reason why We cannot grant it, without being tared of breaking your Priviledges, or being counselled by those who are enemies to the Peace of the Kingdom, and favourers of the Irish Rebellion (for We have seene your Printed Votes, upon Our Message from Huntington) you will reduce all Our Answers hereafter into a very little roome; In plaine English, It is to take away the Freedom of Our Vote, which were we but a Subject, were high Injustice; but being your King, We leave all the world to judge what it is.

Is this the way to compose all misunderstandings? we thought wee shewed you one by our Message of the 20. of January, if you have a better or readier, we shall willingly hearken to it. for hitherto you have shewed us none. But why the refusall to consent to your Order, (which you call a deniall of the Militia) should be any interruption to it, wee cannot understand. For the Militia (which wee always thought necessary to be setled) we never denyed the thing (as wee told you in our Answer of the 28. of January, to the Petition of the House of Commons) for wee accepted the persons, (except for Corporations) wee onely denyed the way. You aske it by way of Ordinance, and with such a preface as we can neither with Justice to Our Honour, or innocency consent to: You exclude Us for any power in the disposition or execution of it, together with you, and for a time utterly unlimited. We tell you we would have the thing done; Allow the persons (with that exception;) Desire a Bill (the onely good old way of imposing on Our Subiects.) We are extreamely unsatisfied what an Ordinance is, but well satisfied, that without Our consent it is nothing, not binding: And it is evident by the long time spent in this argument, the necessity and danger was not so eminent, but a Bill might have well beene prepared, which if it shall yet bee done with that due regard to us, and care of our people, in the limitation of the power and other circumstances, we shall recede from nothing wee formerly

ly expressed in that Answer to your Order, otherwise we must declare to all the world, That wee are not satisfied with, or shall ever allow Our Subjects to be bound by your Printed Votes, of the fifteenth or sixteenth of this moneth, or that under pretence of declaring what the Law of the Land is, you shall without us make a new Law, which is plainly the case of the Militia: And what is this but to introduce an Arbitrary way of Government?

Concerning Pyms Speech, you will have found by what the Lord Compton, and Mr. Baynton brought from us, in answer to that Message they brought to us, that as yet we rest nothing satisfied in that particular.

As for the seditious Pamphlets and Sermons, wee are both sorry and ashamed in so great a variety, and in which our Rights, Honour and Authority, are so insolently slighted and vilified, and in which the Dignity and freedome of Parliament is so much invaded and violated, it should be asked of us to name any; the mentioning of the Protestation protested, The Apprentices Protestation, To your Tents, O Israel, or any other, would be too great an excuse for the rest. If you think them not worthy your inquiry, we have done. But we thinke it most strange, to be told, That our denyall of a guard (which we yet never denyed, but granted in another manner, and under a command at that time most accustomed in the Kingdome) or the denyall of any thing else (which is in Our power legally to deny) which in our understanding (of which God hath surely given Us some use) is not fit to be granted, should bee any excuse for so dangerous concourse of people, which not onely in our apprehension, but (Wee believe) in the interpretation of Law it selfe, hath beene alwayes most tumultuous and seditious. And we must wonder, what, & whence comes the Instructions and Informations that those people have, who can so easily thinke themselves obliged by the Protestation to assemble in such a manner, for the defence of privileges, which cannot be so clearly knowne to any of them, and so negligently passe over the consideration and defence of our Rights so beneficiall and necessary for themselves, and scarce unknown to any of them, which their by Oathes of Allegiance and Supremacy (and eben by the same Protestation) they are at least equally obliged to defend. And what interruptions such kinde of Assemblies may be to the freedome of future Parliaments (if not seasonably discountenanced and suppressed) we must advise you to consider, as likewise whether both Our powers may not by such meanes be usurped, by hands not trusted by the Constitution of this Kingdome. For Our Guard, we referre you to Our answer to your Declaration.

By that Question of Violating your Lawes, by which wee endeavoured to expresse Our care and resolution to observe them, we did not expect you would have beene invited to have looked back so many yeares, for which you have had so ample Reparation; Neither looked we to bee reproached with the actions of our Ministers (then against the Lawes) whilst we expresse so great a zeale for the present defence of them, it being our Resolution, upon observation of the mischiefe which then grew by Arbitrary power (though made plausible to us by the suggestions of necessity and imminent danger, and take you heed ye fall not into the same errour upon the same suggestions) hereafter to keepe Rule Our self, and

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to Our power require the same from all others : But above all, wee must be most sensible of what you cast upon Us for requitall of those good Bills you cannot deny. Wee have denied any such Designe, and as God Almighty must judge in that point betweene Us, who knowes Our upright intentions at the passing those Lawes : So in the meane time wee desie the Devill to prove that there was any Designe (with Our knowledge or privity) in or about the time of passing those Bills, that had it taken effect could have deprived Our Subjects of fruit of them : And therefore we demand full Reparation in this point, that we may be cleared in the sight of all the world, and chiefly in the eyes of our loving Subjects, from so notorious and false an imputation as this is.

Wee are farre from denying what you have done, For wee acknowledge the charge our people have sustained in keeping the two Armies, and in relieving Ireland, of the which we are so sensible, that in regard of those great Burthens Our People have undergone, wee have and doe patiently suffer those extreme personall wants, as Our Predecessours have beene seldome put to, rather then we would presse upon them : which we hope (in time) will be considered on your parts.

In Our offer of a Generall Pardon, Our intent was to compose and secure the generall condition of Our Subjects, conceiving that in these times of great Distractions, the good Lawes of the Land have not beene enough observed ; But it is a strange world when Princes profered Favours are counted Reproaches : yet if you like not this Our offer wee have done.

Concerning any discourses of Forreigne Forces, though we have given you a full Answer in Ours to your last Declaration, yet we must tell you, we have neither so ill an opinion of Our owne merit, or the Affections of Our good Subjects, as to think our selfe in need of any Forreigne Force to preserve Us from Oppression (and we shall not need for any other purpose) but are confident (through Gods providence) not to want the good-wishes and assistance of the whole Kingdome, being resolved to build upon that sure Foundation, the Law of the Land. And wee take it very ill that any generall Discourses between an unknowne Person & a Mariner, or inferences upon Letters should be able to prevaile in matters so improbable in themselves, and scandalous to Us, for which We cannot but likewise ask reparation, not only for the vindicating of Our own Honour, but also thereby to settle the mindes of Our Subjects, whose feares and Jealousies would soone vanish, were they not fed and maintained by such false and malicious Rumours as these.

For our returne to Our Parliament, We have given you a full Answer in Ours to your Declaration, and you ought to looke on Us as not gone but driven (We say not by you, yet) from you. And if it be not easie for you to make Our Residence in London so safe as we could desire, We are and will be contented that Our Parliament be adjourned to such a place where We may be fitly & safely with you. For though We are not pleased to be at this distance, yet ye are not to expect Our Presence, untill ye shall both secure Us concerning Our just apprehensions of Tumultuary insolencies, And likewise give us satisfaction for those Insupportable and Insolent Scandals that are raised upon us.

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To conclude, As We have or shall not refuse any way agreeable to Justice or Honour, which shall be offered to Us for the begetting a right understanding between Us: So We are resolved, that no Streights or necessities (to which We may be driven) shall ever compell Us to do that, which the Reason and Understanding that God hath given Us, and Our Honour and Interest, with which God hath trusted Us for the good of Our Posterity and Kingdomes, shall render unpleasant and grievous unto Us.

And We assure you that (how meanly soever you are pleased to value the discharge of Our publique duty) We are so conscious so to Our self of having done our part, since this Parliament, that in whatsoever condition We now stand, We are confident of the continued Protection from Almighty God, and the constant gratitude, obedience, and affection from Our people: And We shall trust God with all.

To the KINGS most Excellent Majesty,

The humble Petition of divers Noblemen and Gentlemen Estated in *Ireland*, now at *London*,

Humbly sheweth,

THat most of Your Petitioners, and many thousands of Your Majesties most faithfull Subjects and late Inhabitants of your Kingdom of Ireland, being robbed, and spoiled of all their substance (and thereby many of them reduced to a most miserable condition, who formerly faithfully served your Majesty) are now enforced to flee into this Kingdom, by occasion of the unexampled, bloody, and unhumane cruelties of the Rebels of that Kingdom, who through the instigation of Popish Priests, Friers, and Jesuits, and other malignant persons, have risen in Arms in that Kingdom against your Majesties Crown and Dignity, and destroyed, or banished almost all Your Majesties loyall and dutifull Subjects the Protestanrs there, for no other cause, but for that they do not worship God after their Idolatrous and Superstitious manner; which is manifest by their publike Declarations, Speeches, Oathes and Confederacies (albeit some few other fond pretences are added, to glosse their most barbarous actions) That these foure moneths past, the expectation of powerfull supplies, Treasure, and Ammunition, from England and Scotland, hath supported the drooping and languishing spirits of Your Petitioners and others, the Protestants, interessed in that Kingdom, who finding but small Succours hitherto sent thither, notwithstanding the severall Orders of both Houses of Parliament, do now with unspeakable griefe of heart, apprehend nothing but despaire of ever being restored to their habitations, if your Majesty be not graciously pleased to give life and power to the painfull endeavours of both Houses of Parliament, the prosecution of that War necessarily requiring a great sum of Money to be presently raised. And in all humility, The Petitioners conceive the Act lately passed by Your Majesties Royall Grace and goodnesse, (upon the Propositions made by those who shall adventure their Moneys) to be the only way left for raising present money for that worke: And they finde that the removall of Your Sacred Majesty to places so remote, and distant from the Parliament, doth much discourage the Adventurers in advancing Moneys for

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effectuall proceeding in the work, and consequently will be a meanes, unavoidably to retard the long expected Supplies, contrary to your Majesties Royall intentions often expressed, and will much encourage the Rebels, and their adherents in that Kingdom, and may, in the opinion of some (as they feare) gain a beliefe of those false reports, which divers of the Rebels have taken the boldnesse to raise, even very lately since the publishing of Your Majesties Proclamation for suppressing the Rebels, That they are Your Majesties Souldiers, and that the Supplies that arrived there, were but the Parliament supplies. And Your Petitioners further humbly shew, That if strong Forces be not suddenly raised, and transported thither, (the season of the yeere now serving) the British and Protestants in that Kingdom cannot long subsist, but will be extirpated, and Papists, and the Idolatrous Masse thereby established, which is already publikly used in most of the Churches of that Kingdom.

May it therefore please Your most sacred Majesty, to reflect upon the desperate and miserable condition of that poore Kingdom, and weighing the Premises and other the Consequences of delaying the effectuall setting forward of the War against the Rebels in Ireland; of Your Princely goodnesse and wisdom, to vouchsafe Your Majesties presence unto Your Parliament, for the encouragement of the Adventurers, and all other Your Majesties good Subjects, in this Pious worke; for the discouragement of the Rebels, and for expediting such further Acts, Commissions, and Warrants to issue, as shall be requisite for the preservation of the remnant of Your good Subjects, the Protestants yet left in Ireland, or driven for the present thereout.

And Your Suppliants will pray, &c.

At the Court at *Yorke*, 28 *Martii*. 1642.

HIs Majesty hath given me expresse command to give you this His Answer to your Petition, That this Petition (as some others of this nature) is grounded upon misinformation, and being grieved, and highly offended, to see how his good People have been and are abused, by false rumours and Intelligences, which have procured causeless Feares and apprehensions; refers the Petitioners to the two Answers He hath given to His Parliament, viz. to the Declaration presented to Him at Newmarket, and to the Petition presented to Him the 26. of this Moneth at York: Wherein you will clearly perceive that His Majesty is not gone, but driven from His Parliament; And therefore His Majesty hath reason to think, that now, (understanding the love He beares to, and confidence he hath of His Peoples fidelity, as likewise His constant Resolution for the maintaining of, and governing by the Lawes of the Land) you may finde reason to Petition the Parliament to comply with His Majesties just Desires and gracious Offers, this being the only way safely and speedily to cure the present Distractions of this Kingdom, and (with Gods blessing) to put a happy end to the Irish Rebellion, for the effecting whereof (as His Majesty hath often said) He will never spare paines, nor decline any hazard of His Person or Fortune.

Signed by Mr. Secretary *Nicholas*.

FINIS.